

SENATE BILL 1261

By Akbari

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 3, relative to the Tennessee Investment in  
Student Achievement Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) The principal of a public school that is in the bottom twenty percent (20%) of schools based on an evaluation of all schools' performance data shall annually develop a written proposal for the principal's school. The written proposal must be submitted to, and filed with, the school's LEA no later than the first week of the school year, and must be retained, unaltered, by the LEA for no less than three (3) school years. The written proposal must be made available to the department of education or the state board of education upon the department's or state board's request.

(b) Each written proposal must:

(1) Identify the resources that the school needs in order to provide the students enrolled in the LEA an adequate and equitable education;

(2) Identify areas of improvement for the school and whether the area is related to the LEA's academic programming, the academic achievement of the students in the school, the professional development or retainment needs of the respective school, or other needs specific to the school that funding through the TISA is needed to advance the school's goals, performance, and mission;

(3) Provide data collected by the state, LEA, or school evidencing each of the school needs identified pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) and each of the areas of improvement for the school identified pursuant to subdivision (b)(2); and

(4) Be developed by the school principal independent of the school's governing body, local board of education, president, or director of schools, as applicable, to ensure that the proposal is a fair and accurate statement of the school's needs, as opposed to the needs of the respective LEA.

(c) School principals required to develop a written proposal pursuant to this section are encouraged to seek input and feedback from students, teachers, and other school employees in identifying the school's needs and any needed resources.

(d) A written proposal developed by a public school principal pursuant to this section may be used by the school or the LEA to evaluate the growth and proficiency of the students enrolled in the school; provided, that nothing in this subsection (d) affects the accountability requirements or measures for schools or LEAs under this title.

(e) This section does not require the LEA or school to use TISA funding generated pursuant to this part to provide the resources or to address the needs or areas of improvement identified by the school's principal in the written proposal.

(f) The principal of a public school that is not in the bottom twenty percent (20%) of schools based on an evaluation of all schools' performance data is encouraged, but not required, to annually develop a written proposal for the principal's school that complies with subsection (b), and that is based on feedback from students, teachers, and other school employees, as provided in subsection (c).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2023, the public welfare requiring it.